

Amendments to th Specification:

IN THE ABSTRACT

Please add the Abstract of the Disclosure attached on a separate page as Exhibit A.

On Page 1, above line 1, please insert the following paragraphs:

--CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application is a divisional of parent application Serial No. 10/111,473 filed on April 23, 2002, which claims the benefit as a National Stage entry of a PCT application pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 371, of International Application No. PCT/DE00/03509 filed September 30, 2000, published in the German language, which in turn claims priority, in its parent case, of German Application No. 199 51 085.7 filed October 23, 1999.--

Please replace the first full paragraph on page 8 with the following rewritten paragraph:

--The positioning of the ring 6 of the cover 4 and the ring-shaped collar 13 of the inner frame 12 are selected so that the ring 6 and the ring-shaped collar 13 overlap radially in an axial section when the ring-shaped filter insert 9 is engaged on the

cover 4. A gasket 16 is arranged between the ring 6 and the ring-shaped collar ~~16~~ 13 in contact with both the ring 6 and the ring-shaped collar 13 and sealing it. Due to the gasket 16, the receiving area 3 is sealed with respect to an interior space 11 of the ring-shaped filter insert 9 at the upper end of the ring-shaped filter insert 9.--

Please replace the paragraph bridging pages 14-15 with the following rewritten paragraph:

--In a preferred embodiment according to Fig. 9, the upper end disk 17 is formed by a nonwoven, which is welded onto or plastified with the upper axial end of the filter material 10. The nonwoven material is unchanged in the area adjacent to the filter material 10 on the inside radially, forming gasket 16 there which projects radially inward through a central orifice in the ring-shaped filter insert 9 as long as the ring-shaped filter insert 9 is not placed on the cover 4. In contrast with the embodiment illustrated in Fig. 1, the variant illustrated in Fig. 9 does not have any connection 22 projecting axially downward, but instead is equipped with a central opening 31. Accordingly, a connection (see connection 37 in Fig. 3) projecting axially from the bottom 18 of the receiving area 3 is inserted into this central orifice to establish the connection of the interior space 11 to the outlet 20. Here again, appropriate sealing means 32 which act radially are also provided. In the embodiment

illustrated in Fig. 9, a nonwoven disk 45 35 is placed on the lower axial end of the filter material 10 for mounting the gasket 32 as done with the upper end disk 17 and is bonded to it by plastification. A part of the nonwoven disk 35 which projects radially inward beyond the filter material 10 then forms the gasket 32. Then the lower end disk 21 is placed on this nonwoven disk 35 or is welded to it. The lower end disk 21 may be bonded to the inner frame 12 at the same time by a ring shoulder 33 which projects axially inward.--